



Do You???

by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

“Do You. . . ?” That’s the question we ask five times to our confirmation students. Just like we do to any new members. They are some heavy questions. Here they are condensed. Do you acknowledge you’re a sinner? Do you believe in Jesus as the Savior of sinners and the Lord of your life? Do you promise to live as a follower of Christ? Do you promise to participate as a member of this church? Do you agree to the oversight of this session? Like I said, big questions about what matters most in life. This Sunday, 30 sixth grade students will answer those questions as the culmination of nine months of study, prayer, discipleship and interaction with elders, pastors and teachers. We’ve approached these questions on multiple levels. Because this is what matters most. Do you want to be all in with Jesus? Pray for them this Sunday afternoon as they answer a joyful Yes to all these questions!

And now a five pack of notes for this May.

- Last year, the church received a PPP loan from the government to cover us should COVID cause a drop in our revenues. That loan gave us confidence to keep all our Mother’s Day Out teachers on at full pay and to keep all our staff going. But ultimately, we didn’t need it. Because our dear members came through with stunning giving. So last week, we sent it back, with interest. After much deliberation, the session determined that returning these funds was God’s direction for us, an act of trust and freedom.

- The session approved \$59,000 in grants, including support for five seminary students, a girls’ dormitory in Uganda and a vehicle for a professor at African Bible College. This is your Foundation at work reaching the world!

- On Mother’s Day, we give thanks for that most important and difficult of jobs: rearing children in love and wisdom. Through natural birth, adoption, fostering, aunting, teaching and mentoring, women have been giving the gifts of motherhood to our community. How grateful we are!

- This summer, opportunities abound for children and youth to go deeper in Christ and further into the world. Camps, mission trips, Vacation Bible School and fun youth activities. Stay tuned for details.

- On Sunday, May 30, we will have one combined worship service at 10.30. In June we’ll continue with three Sunday services before single services return in July. Isn’t it great to be together again?

As ever, I love being your pastor,

Gerrit



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LFR Parents Meeting	MAY 2
Confirmation	MAY 2
Mother's Day	MAY 9
Pickleball Resumes	MAY 9
rEcess Resumes	MAY 14
"Statues, Pedestals and Jesus"	MAY 21
Combined 10.30 Worship	MAY 30
Church Office Closed	MAY 31

BAPTISMS

April 11, 2021
 David Michael Breard
 Parents are Caroline and Luke Breard

Olivia Mae Schell
 Parents are Erin and Chad Schell

MARRIAGES

April 10, 2021
 Betsy Patrick to John Pharis

IN MEMORIAM

April 2, 2021
 Mary Elizabeth Norckauer

April 26, 2021
 Richard Morris

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are placed . . .

MAY 2 . . . to the glory of God in loving memory of Mary Crosby McDuff and Jane Ellison Quinn by Ann and Michael McDuff.

MAY 9 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of three mothers, all very special to our family: our mother, Jackie Lee Airhart; her mother, Claudia Lee Tisdale; Kristen's mother, Becky Richardson by the children of Jackie Lee Airhart.

MAY 16 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of John W. Wheeler by his family.

MAY 23 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Gallaher Frey Eaton by her daughter, Barbara Anne Eaton.

MAY 30 . . . Open date.

If you would like to donate flowers for a particular Sunday, please contact Kathy Mullins at 603.4735.

Joyful Relief by Whitney Alexander, Associate Pastor of Missions

One of the joys of hurricane relief is spending time with homeowners as we work on repairs. One of the families we met in March was Angie and Tim Brown from Iowa, Louisiana. We were tasked with repairing the patio soffit and then priming and painting fascia boards all around the home. Our team of volunteers replaced the broken soffit and continued to put two finish coats on the exterior of the Brown's home over the course of four weeks. The contractors working on the inside of the home are hoping to complete the interior by Memorial Day. The move-in date is set for June 1. Our church family will help them move in. JOIN US.



ricane Relief tables labeled for the Brown family by June 1. Please put all gift cards in an envelope labeled, "Angie & Tim Brown" and bring to Laura Shaw's desk in the church office. This is another beautiful opportunity to care for a family in need.

Beginning May 10, a team of skilled sheetrock hangers is coming from Hope Presbyterian Church in Memphis, TN. The goal is to sheetrock six homes in five weeks. Our church will purchase the sheetrock and all that is needed to complete this project by June 14. If you desire to make a donation for this ongoing work in Iowa and Lake Charles, please go online to fpcbr.org and look for Hurricane Relief. Our church family has spent sixty days since Hurricane Laura came onshore on August 28, 2020 helping and assisting with hurricane recovery. If you are ever interested in joining us on Wednesdays and Saturdays, please SHOW UP! If you have any questions, please call me at 225.810.2607. THANK YOU for all your help and support the past eight months!

We are asking the FPCBR congregation to come alongside the Brown family and help us restock their pantry by donating a pound of rice, beans, canned goods, paper products or maybe a gift card for supplies we do not know they need. If you are interested in blessing Angie and Tim's pantry and home, please drop off these items in the gym on the Hur-

First Presbyterian Church Women's Ministry College Scholarship Fund

The First Presbyterian Church Women's Ministry College Scholarship Fund is a unique fund established in 1955 for all students who wish to further their education. Its purpose is to offer financial assistance to those who would otherwise have difficulty meeting the obligations of continued education.

The administration of the fund is the responsibility of the Memorial Scholarship Committee and honors particular need-based guidelines. Rather than academic achievements, aid is intended to be a helpful supplement in the student's pursuit of higher education. The annual value of an individual grant varies between \$400 and \$800.

The application deadline is June 1, 2021. Applications are available by contacting Jaci Gaspard in the church office (jaci@fpcbr.org) or online at fpcbr.org.



Memorial Day Worship: Single 10.30 am Service

On Sunday, May 30, First Presbyterian will celebrate Memorial Day weekend with one single, combined 10.30 am worship service in the Sanctuary. There will be no Sunday school.

What Are We Doing About Masks? By Gerrit Dawson

Our session has decided to ask worshipers to wear masks through May 23. Why? Well, as Nick Saban might say, it's about respecting the process.

A significant number of our attendees are still completing the vaccination process. As much as we all want to rip away these annoying coverings and sing out freely, we know that waiting just a bit longer allows anyone who wants to be immunized against COVID to do so. After May 23, we can each make our own personal decisions about attendance and masking.

Hang in there beloved church. Soon, very soon, we'll be singing with unfettered hearts—and faces! Believe me, I'm longing to see your dear faces when I preach!

"Statues, Pedestals and Jesus: A Recital" By Lauren Honea

How should we see women? How should I, as a woman, view myself? Am I a pedestal or a statue? What does Jesus say about women?

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "A woman is like a tea bag; you never know how strong it is until it's in hot water." In Genesis, woman is described as an "ezer" which is translated as helper. We can easily portray this as weak and subordinate. However, God is also referred to as an "ezer" specifically when it comes to beloved Israel. God is not weak or vulnerable. He is a blend of might and gentleness. Ezer is also used in reference to needed military response. The Bible could have chosen any word to describe woman and it chose a word used in describing a characteristic of God or of military aide.



In "Statues, Pedestals and Jesus: A Recital," I will explore being a woman with songs from Gwyneth Walker, Robert Schumann and others that culminates in a musical scene by Jake Heggie, "At the Statue of Venus." Each selection functions as a snapshot of a woman in various life stages and circumstances.

There is great joy and pain in being a woman. To quote Pastor Gerrit: "God made [women] to feel, to think, to love, to bless, to bring order amidst chaos, to be beautiful amidst so much ugliness, to laugh with loving joy in a way that heals the tears of despair."

"Statues, Pedestals and Jesus: A Recital" will be presented in the Dunham Chapel on Friday, May 21 at 7 pm.

Lake Forest Ranch Parents Meeting

Want to learn more about Lake Forest Ranch Camp? Join Kendra Bremer for a parents information meeting Sunday, May 2 from 10.15 am - 10.45 am in the 1st grade SS classroom for an informational meeting on this summer camp for kids 7-12. Camp dates are July 18-22. Cost is \$395 per child. Registration must be paid in full by May 23, 2021 (payment collected by Kendra Bremer).



Caring for Families with Special Needs Children

Volunteers are always needed to play and love on our community's children with special needs and their siblings at rEcess. A love for caring for children is all that's required to volunteer. The next rEcess is scheduled for Friday, May 14 at 6 pm. Contact Jess at jess.concienne@gmail.com for more information on how to get involved.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

7.45 Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Reformed
Livestream at 9 and 11 am on YouTube and Facebook

MAY SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

MAY 2, 2021

Romans 12: 1-2
Hebrews 13: 15

MAY 9, 2021

To be determined

MAY 16, 2021

Ecclesiastes 1: 1-3
Ecclesiastes 2: 1-11

MAY 23, 2021

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-18

MAY 30, 2021

Ecclesiastes 3: 9-22

PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON
Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER
Associate Pastor of Missions

BARRY PHILLIPS
Ministry Executive

JIM SOLOMON
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Prayer

DARIN TRAVIS
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Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Mother's Day Out and Preschool
225.620.0245

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center
225.387.2287
brchristiancounseling.com

Give Meaning to Your Spring Cleaning

The Purple Cow Thrift Stores significantly support the work of the Christian Outreach Center. They're eager to receive donations of clothing, housewares and furniture at both the Perkins and Jones Creek stores.



Pickleball Is Back!

America's fastest growing sport and the game with the funny name, Pickleball, has come to our church. Ten to 15 players, including several Church members, gather every Sunday beginning May 9 at 3 pm in the gym to play mostly doubles and mixed doubles. Pickleball is played on a court the size of a badminton court with paddles, a tennis net and a heavy whiffle ball. A combination of tennis, badminton and ping pong skills are beneficial, but the real skills needed are a willingness to just get out there, try something new and have fun. It's also a great way to exercise and keep fit!



Oh, and by the way, when Pickleball was first played by families on the coast of Washington State in the early sixties, the owner's dog kept taking the ball and playing keep away. The name of the dog—Pickles!

Come out and give it a try. Contact Mike Glisson at 225.936.8994 or Rick Spiller at 225.278.5760.